essential commodities during September, 1990, October, 1990 arid November, 1990 and for the correspond, ing months in 1989 is enclosed, (See Appendix CLVI> Annexure No. 10].

(c) The over-all pressure on prices of essential commodities is due to cumulative effect of high liquidity and budgetary deficits, foreign exchange constraint, sustained consumer demand, and demand and supply gap in case of items like edible oiis and pulses. However, as a result of various measures taken by Government the runaway increase in prices of essential items has been kept under check.

Supply of Edible Oils and Vanaspati through PDS

25ft, SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the unprecedented increase in the prices of edible oils besides short supply of various brands of groundnut oil and vanaspati;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in the prices of edible oils and vanaspati during the last one year monthwise;

(c) what is the percentage of shortage in the supply of edible oils and vanaspati through public distribution system and in retail market;

(d) what are the main causes for the sudden sharp increase in the prices of vanaspati and edible oils; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to meet the situation and make available edible oils/vanaspati to the consumers at a reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSAIN;.- (a) The Government is aware of the increase in prices of edihle oils. No report regarding short supply of groundnut oil and vanaspati has oeen received.

(b) A statement is enclosed. (See below)

(e) In the oil-year 1989-90 the supply of edible oils through PDS has progressively increased from December, 1989 to the end of oil year. Vanaspati is not supplied through PDS. No report of shortage of edible oils and vanaspati in the retail market has been received.

(d) The causes for the increase in the prices of vanaspati and edible oils apart from general rise of prices are lower kharif groundnut crop this year and limited import of edible oils on account of BOP constraints.

(e) Some of the measures taken by the Government are:

(i) Excise rebate allowed usag$_e$ of minor/non-traditional oils;

(ii) The stock limits of edible oils (including hydrogenated vegetable oils) with wholesalers and retailers have been reduced;

(iii) The stock limits of edible oils and vanaspati with the producers have been halved. r - -

(iv) To improve the availability and acceptability of edible oils blending of one conventional edible oil with one refined non-conventional oil (e.g. soyabeen, cottonseed, saf-flower oils) has been permitted;

(v) The permission to use upto 20 per cent expeller mustard/Rapeseed oil in the manufacture of vanaspati has been withdrawn to ease the price pressure on mustard oil. The price situation is closely monitored to take appropriate corrective measures.